

Thrilling
Western
Adventures

with **KIT WEST** and the **PRINCE OF PIONEERS**

ANC



AN Aron COMIC

NO. 5



COW PUNCHER



WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM



The FLAMING FINGERS OF DEATH



A STEALTHY HAND SENDS THE QUIET FOREST INTO A BLAZING INFERNO OF BURNING DEATH....A BEAUTIFUL GIRL IS LEFT THERE TO PERISH AMID THE LEAPING FLAMES. WHY----? IT'S A PUZZLE THAT, WE'RE IT NOT FOR THE TEXAS RANGER, MAY WELL HAVE GONE UNSOLVED, AND, WITH IT, A KILLER WOULD HAVE BEEN LEFT FREE TO TAKE HIS PLACE AMONG HONEST MEN! BUT THE TEXAS RANGER, SYMBOL OF JUSTICE AND HONOR IN THE OLD WEST, UNRAVELS THE PUZZLE THAT BEGAN IN THE FLAMING FOREST WHEN HE FOUGHT THE FLAMING FINGERS OF DEATH!!!!

'ONE AFTERNOON, THE TEXAS RANGER IS PEACEFULLY RIDING THROUGH THE FOREST, WHEN....

EASY, BOY--
MAYBE... SAY,
WAIT A
MINUTE!
I SMELL
SMOKE!

GREAT SHOOTIN'--!
IT'S A FOREST FIRE! AND
IT'S COMING FAST, TOO!
I'D BETTER GET TO
TOWN AND WARN
EVERYONE!

GIDDAP, BOY---! THE
WIND IS FROM THE
WEST! WE CAN GET
AHEAD OF THE
FLAMES THIS
WAY!

WHOA----/
THAT HORSE...
THE RIDER IS
MISSING!

THE RIDER OF THAT
HORSE MAY BE BACK
IN THOSE FLAMES!
C'MON, BOY,
LET'S GO!

RACING BACK INTO THE BURNING FOREST, THE
TEXAS RANGER SUDDENLY FINDS AN INERT FORM...

WHOA, BOY--!
JUMPIN'
LIZARDS..!
IT'S A
GIRL! WE'RE
JUST IN
TIME!

SHE'LL BE BADLY
BURNED IN A SECOND!
GOOD---- SHE'S
WAKING UP!

OO OOH----
MY HEAD!

OH.... WH....
WHAT HAS
HAPPENED?

YOU WERE ON FIRE!
C'MON....WE'VE GOT
TO GET OUT OF HERE!
WERE IN THE MIDDLE
OF A RAGING
FIRE!

HOW CAN WE
GET OUT? THE
FIRE IS ALL
AROUND
US!

WE'RE HEMMED IN FROM
ALL SIDES NOW! MIGHTY
STRANGE TO HAVE
SPREAD IN ALL
DIRECTIONS SO
FAST!

WE'RE TRAPPED....
WE'LL BE BURNED
TO DEATH!

NOT IF I CAN
HELP IT! HANG
ON....WE'LL
FIND SOME
WAY OUT!

KEEP YOUR HEAD LOW, MISS.
THERE'S NO TIME TO STOP....
THAT'S IT BOY.... KEEP
GOING! I REMEMBER A
STREAM IN THOSE
WOODS....IF I CAN
ONLY FIND IT IN
THIS INFERO!



THEN SUDDENLY, THE FIRE HEMMED US IN FROM ALL SIDES. A WIND BLOWING FROM ONE DIRECTION WOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT SO QUICKLY. IT WAS SET IN FOUR DIFFERENT SPOTS SO IT'D SPREAD FAST!

BUT WHY SHOULD ANYONE WANT TO KILL ME....? WHY....WHY....?

SOMEBODY MEANT TO KILL YOU AND MAKE IT SEEM AS IF YOU'D DIED IN THE FIRE! MAYBE I CAN FIND OUT WHO AND WHY!

AS FAR AS THE MURDERER KNOWS, YOU'RE DEAD. I'LL GO TO TOWN AND SEE IF I CAN PICK UP A LEAD. MEANWHILE I'LL HIDE YOU IN A RANGER WAY-STATION, NEAR HERE!

NEXT DAY, IN TOWN. THE RANGER BEGINS PUTTING HIS PLAN INTO EFFECT.

YES, RANGER, I'M HAL CREEGER, MANAGER HERE. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

I'VE BAD NEWS, YOUR SINGER CORA CARTER, WAS TRAPPED IN A BAD FOREST FIRE. I FOUND HER BODY!

WHAT....?? POOR CORA. THIS IS REALLY A SHOCK!

I KNOW HOW YOU MUST FEEL. IT LOOKS AS IF YOU'LL HAVE TO GET SOMEONE TO REPLACE HER. LET ME KNOW IF I CAN HELP!

AND STILL LATER....

SO FAR SO GOOD....I'VE SPREAD IT ALL OVER TOWN. NOW TO WAIT AND WATCH CLOSELY. SOONER OR LATER THE MAN I WANT WILL TIP HIS HAND....



SUDDENLY... THAT'S ALL RIGHT,
PARDON ME, RANGER. SAY IF
MA'M... I WASN'T YOU'RE GOING TO BE
WATCHING, RECKIN' I WAS
THINKIN' HARD! LISTEN TO ME, I'M
THE NEW SINGER
CREEGAR HIRED!

I SURE WILL BE THERE,
LISTENING, MA'M.
GOOD... I'M GOING
TO NAP TILL TONIGHT.
I'M DEAD TIRED. IT
TOOK ME ALL DAY
YESTERDAY TO LEARN
THE SONGS HE WANTS
ME TO SING TONIGHT!

IT TOOK HER ALL DAY
YESTERDAY TO LEARN
THOSE SONGS? THEN
CREEGAR HIRED HER, TOLD
HER WHAT TO SING----
YESTERDAY!

THAT MEANS JUST ONE THING...
CREEGAR KNEW YESTERDAY HE'D NEED
TO REPLACE CORA---BECAUSE HE
PLANNED TO
GET RID
OF HER!

THAT DOES IT.... CREEGAR'S MY MAN!
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY HE
TRIED TO KILL CORA BUT I'LL
KNOW THAT TONIGHT!



I'M TAKING YOU IN FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER, CREEGAR! YOU TIPPED YOUR HAND WHEN YOU HIRED CORA'S REPLACEMENT YESTERDAY!

YOU'RE NOT TAKIN' ME ANYPLACE, RANGER....!

I'LL TEACH YOU TO STICK YOUR NOSE INTO MY BUSINESS!



YOU WANT TO PLAY ROUGH, EH? ANYTHING YOU SAY, CREEGAR.

I'M GOIN' TO FINISH WHAT I STARTED!

GUN PLAY, TOO....! IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT, YOU'LL GET IT!



MUSN'T PLAY WITH GUNS....!

Ooooh.... MY HAND!

YOU OUGHT TO KNOW BETTER THAN TO DRAW AGAINST A RANGER!



NO....P....PLEASE
DON'T HIT ME
AGAIN....
DON'T!

IT LOOKS LIKE
YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH,
YOU VARMINT!

MAKE HIM TELL WHY
HE TRIED TO KILL
ME, RANGER. WE
STILL DON'T
KNOW THAT!

YOU HEARD HER,
CREEGAR.... START
TALKING, FAST!

YES, YES.... I'LL TELL! HER DRESSING
ROOM IS RIGHT NEXT TO MY OFFICE.
THE OTHER NIGHT, LATE, I WAS
PAYING OFF A GAMBLING DEBT. I'VE
BEEN USING THE HOTEL'S MONEY
FOR GAMBLING!

THEN I SAW THE
LIGHT ON IN CORA'S
DRESSING ROOM, I
KNEW SHE'D OVER-
HEARD ME, AND
I HAD TO
GET RID OF
HER!

NOW I SEE ---- BUT ONE THING
IS WRONG HERE, CREEGAR....

I WASN'T IN MY ROOM
THAT NIGHT.... I
REMEMBER, I'D JUST
LEFT THE LIGHT
ON BY MISTAKE!

NO.... NO.... ! BUT
WHEN I SAW THE
LIGHT.... I....
THOUGHT....
OH, NO!

AND SO LATER.... CREEGAR BEHIND
PRISON BARS....

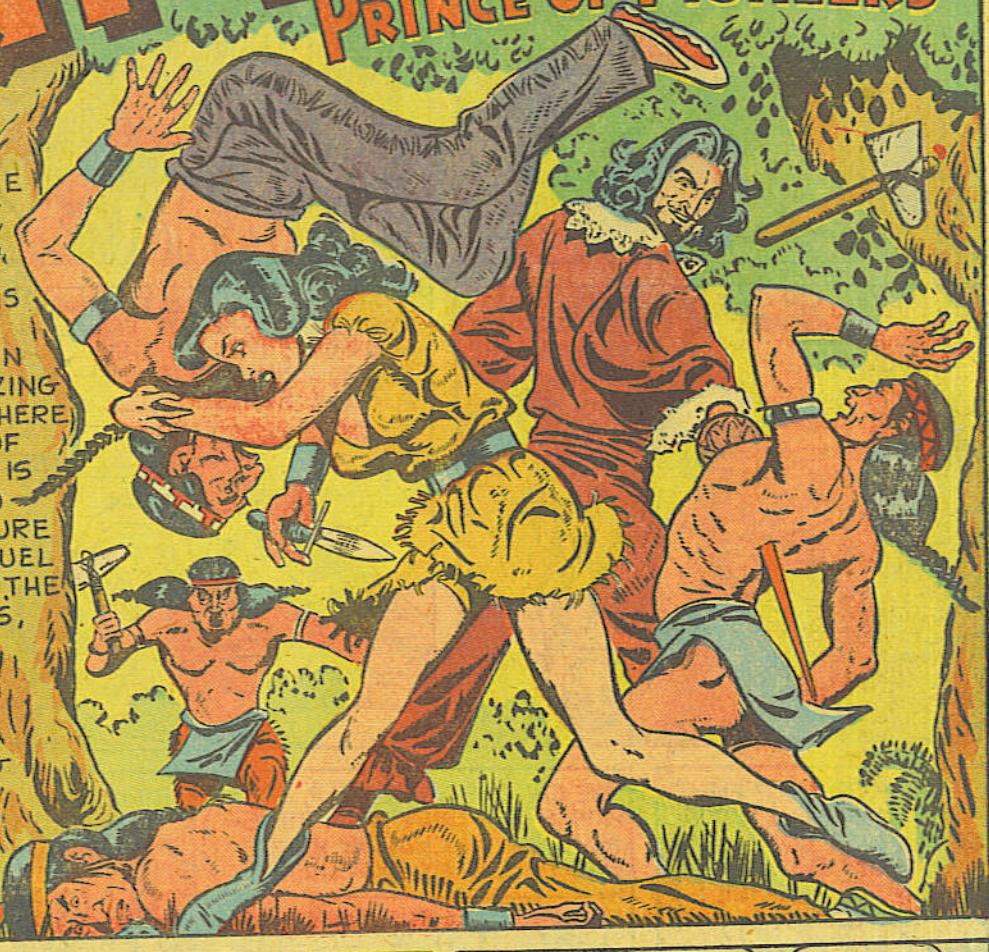
THANKS AGAIN,
RANGER.... FOR
EVERYTHING, PLEASE
VISIT ME OFTEN...
I'LL BE SINGING
EVERY NIGHT
AGAIN
NOW!

I'LL BE BACK SOME-
TIME, CORA. TILL
THEN....
GOOD-
BYE!

KIT WEST

and the PRINCE OF PIONEERS

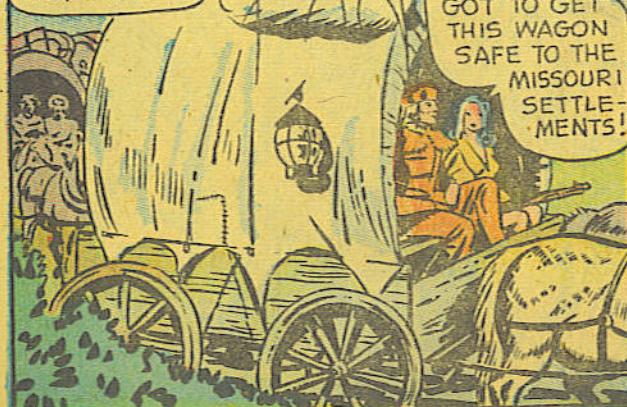
WHAT IS THE QUIRK IN MEN THAT THEY WILL HATE WHAT IS FOREIGN TO THEM? EVEN ON THE BLAZING FRONTIER WHERE THE HAND OF EVERY MAN IS NEEDED TO BATTLE NATURE AND THE CRUEL SAVAGES OF THE WILDERNESS, PREJUDICE REARS ITS UGLY HEAD TO BREED A HORRIFYING TRAGEDY!



LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY, WHEN THE WEST WAS YOUNG, AND THE ONLY TRAINS WERE WAGON TRAINS...

NICE LITTLE BURG,
LEXINGTON - SHAME T'LEAVE
IT JUST WHEN WE WAS GETTIN'
ACQUAINTED.

WE DIDN'T COME FOR A GOOD TIME, HANK, WE'VE GOT TO GET THIS WAGON SAFE TO THE MISSOURI SETTLEMENTS!



VLADIMIR! - STOP THE TRAIN!

ER - THE WHOLE TRAIN, SIR?

KIT! GIT A LOAD OF THET!





LET THEM GO, SIR.
AMERICANS WILL
NEVER UNDER-
STAND YOU. BETTER
WE GO BACK TO
MORDAVIA.

NO—I CAN NEVER
GO BACK, SO—
I SHALL BECOME
A COMMON
RIFLEMAN—
COME, VLADIMIR!



10 DAYS PASS, FULL OF STRAIN AND TENSION...

I MUST HAVE A FORK
AND KNIFE! I CANNOT
EAT LIKE THESE PIGS!

THE FRONTIER ISN'T A
PALACE, PRINCE. YOU'LL
HAVE TO FOREGO MANY
COMFORTS.

AYE, THE
WILDERNESS IS
FOR MEN, NOT
OVERDRESSED
SISSIES!



A DAY WILL COME! I WILL HAVE
MY REVENGE, AMERICAN SWINE...!

SWINE? I'M GOIN' TO
POKE HIS TEETH OUT,
PRINCE OR NO PRINCE!

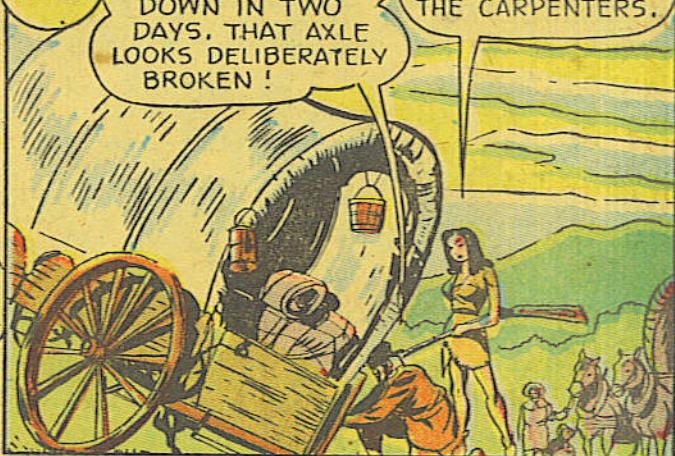
NO, HANK—
HIS HIGHNESS IS
UNDERGOING
ADJUSTMENT.



DAYS
LATER

THIS IS THE FIFTH
WAGON TO BREAK
DOWN IN TWO
DAYS. THAT AXLE
LOOKS DELIBERATELY
BROKEN!

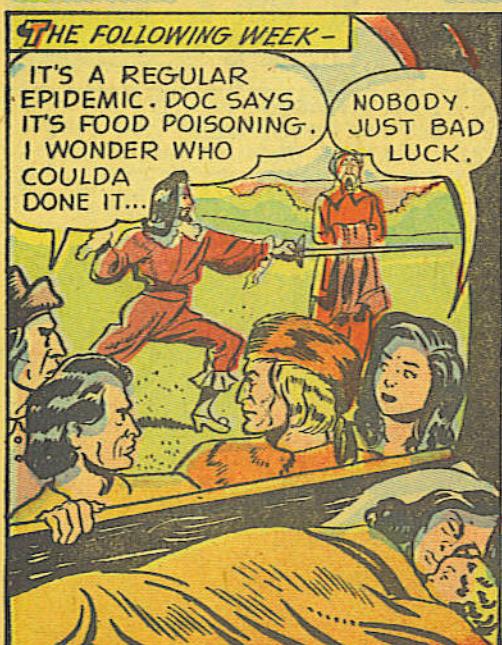
YOU'RE IMAGINING
THINGS, TOM. GET
THE CARPENTERS.



THE FOLLOWING WEEK—

IT'S A REGULAR
EPIDEMIC. DOC SAYS
IT'S FOOD POISONING.
I WONDER WHO
COULD'A DONE IT...

NOBODY.
JUST BAD
LUCK.



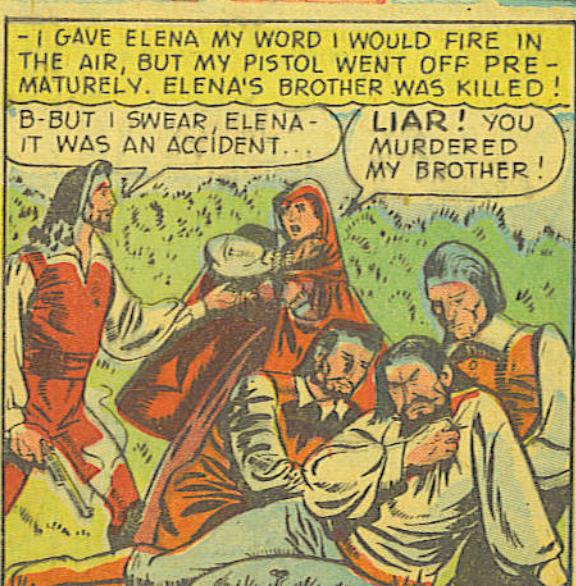
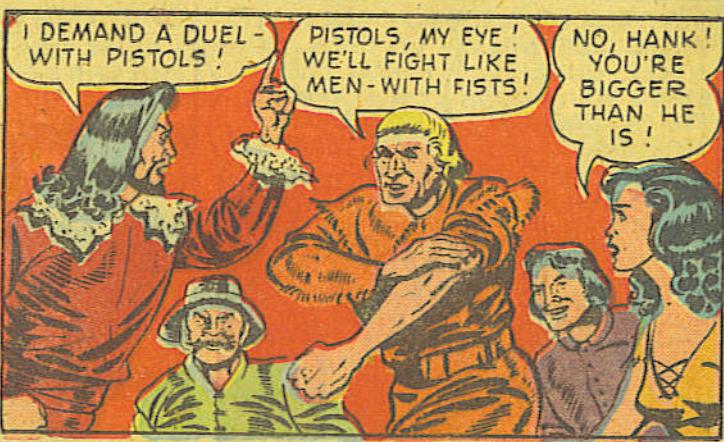
I CAN'T MAKE HIM
OUT, HANK. WHAT
BRINGS A ROYAL
PRINCE TO THE
FRONTIER?

THE EVIL
EYE! WHY,
WE'VE HAD
NUTHIN' BUT
BREAKDOWN
AN' SICKNESS
SINCE HE
JOINED US.

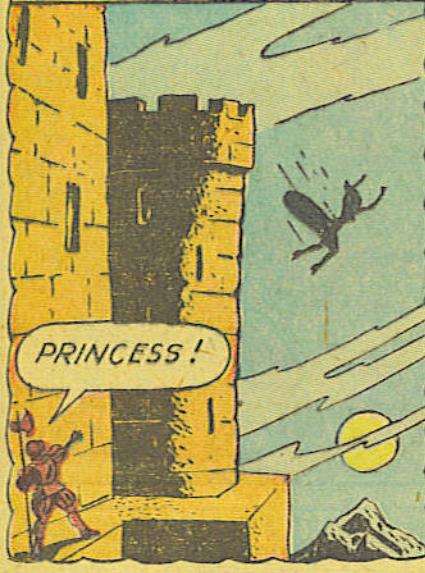
AN' WHO KNOWS IF HE
IS A PRINCE? HOW
COME A FURRINER
SPEAKS PERFECT
ENGLISH?

NOT ONLY
ENGLISH, YOU
IGNORAMUS, BUT
TWENTY OTHER
LANGUAGES!





"THAT NIGHT, OVERCOME WITH GRIEF, ELENA LEAPED TO HER DEATH FROM THE CASTLE WALL!"



PRINCESS!

"TO ME, EUROPE WAS ELENA. WITH HER GONE, I CAN NEVER RETURN. WITH MY FAITHFUL SERVANT, VLADIMIR, I CAME HERE TO BE OF SERVICE TO AMERICA."



I UNDERSTAND, RUDOLPH. THE MEN MUST GET OVER THEIR PREJUDICE, YOU WILL STAY?

AH, BUT MR. JINX HAS A SLICK TONGUE! KIT SWALLOWED THE WHOLE FAIRY-TALE!

BAH! THE SNEAKIN' RENEGADE! HE'D BETTER BRING NO MORE BAD LUCK TO THIS WAGON TRAIN.

"NEXT DAY -- A SCOUTING PARTY, OPERATING A MILE AHEAD..."



YAH!!- AMBUSH!



TWO HOURS LATER-

DEAD! EVERY BLAMED ONE OF THEM!

WHERE WERE YOU, MR. PRINCE? I SEEN YOU LEAVE THE TRAIN EARLY THIS MORNIN'...MAYBE TO WARN YOUR INJUN FRIENDS?

STOP THOSE ACCUSATIONS! HANK RAN INTO AN AMBUSH! WE'VE JUST GOT TO BE MORE CAREFUL!

BAH! LOOKIT HIM SMILE! ENJOYIN' THE WOOL YOU'VE PULLED OVER HER EYES, EH?

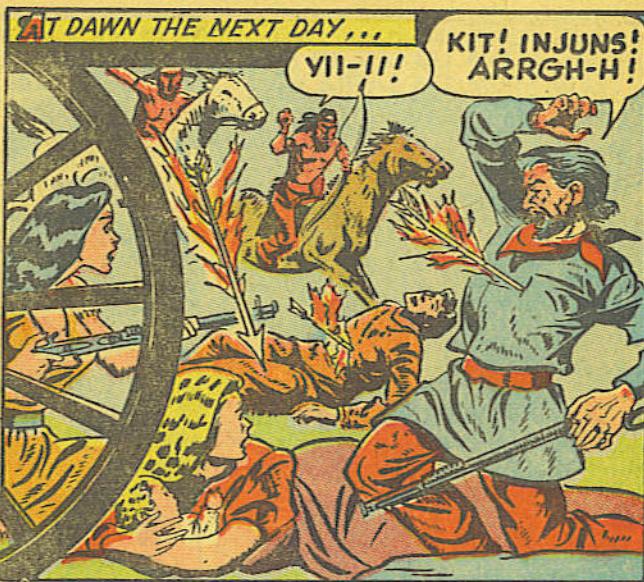


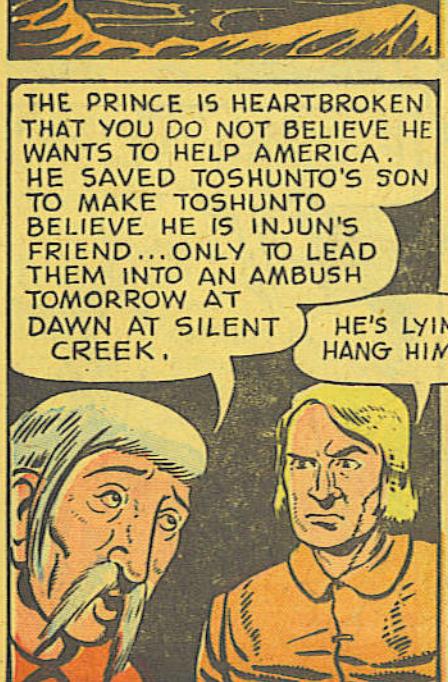
BUT THE BAD LUCK CONTINUED. THE SUCCESS OF TOSHUNTO'S SNIPERS WAS PHENOMENAL...!

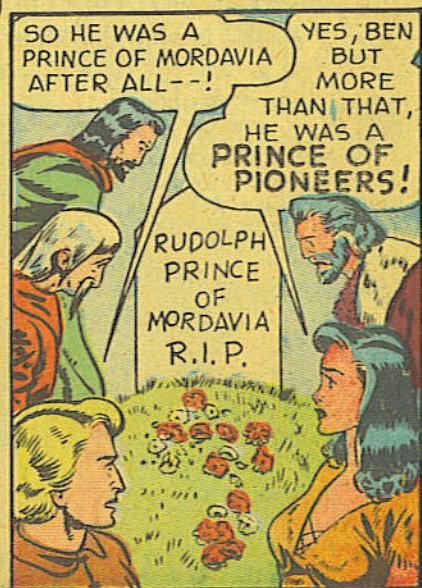


AMBUSHES MULTIPLIED... YOU WERE ONE OF THIS PARTY. SENT ME AWAY, POOR FELLOWS. THEY SAID I'D JINX THEM.





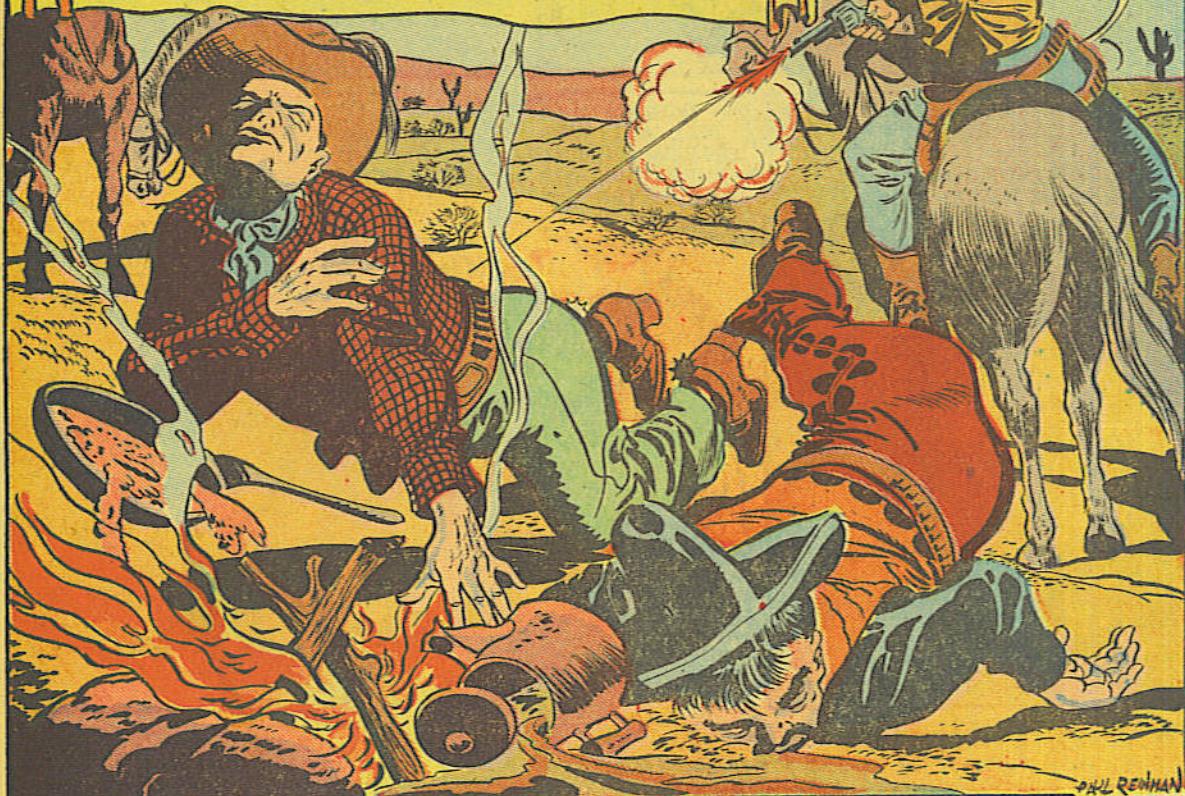




Tales of the Silent Spaces

"TRIPLE CROSS"

IT STARTED WITH A DOUBLE-CROSS. IT CONTINUED WITH A DOUBLE-CROSS! IT ENDED WITH A DOUBLE-CROSS! LUKE LESTER, MASTER-MURDERER, GOT ALL THE TRIPLE-TROUBLE HE WAS LOOKING FOR!



DALL REINHOLD

IT ALL BEGAN WITH A ROBBERY ...

ANDY COVERS
THE BACK WAY.
ME AN' PINTO'LL WALK
IN FIRST, WHEN YOU
HEAR SHOOTIN'... GIVE
'EM - WELL, YOU KNOW
WHAT, ANDY!

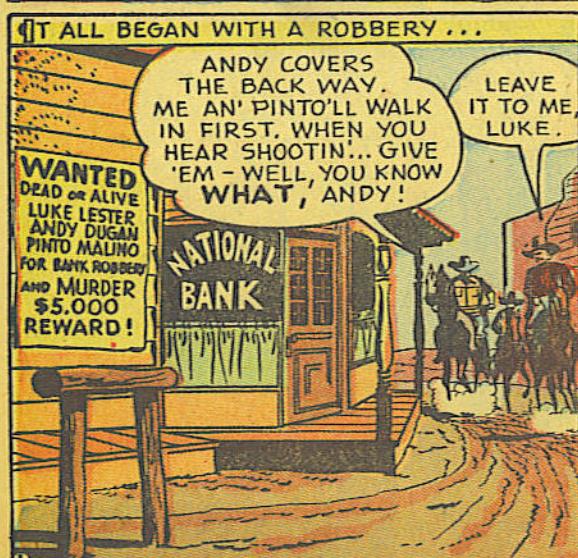
LEAVE
IT TO ME,
LUKE.

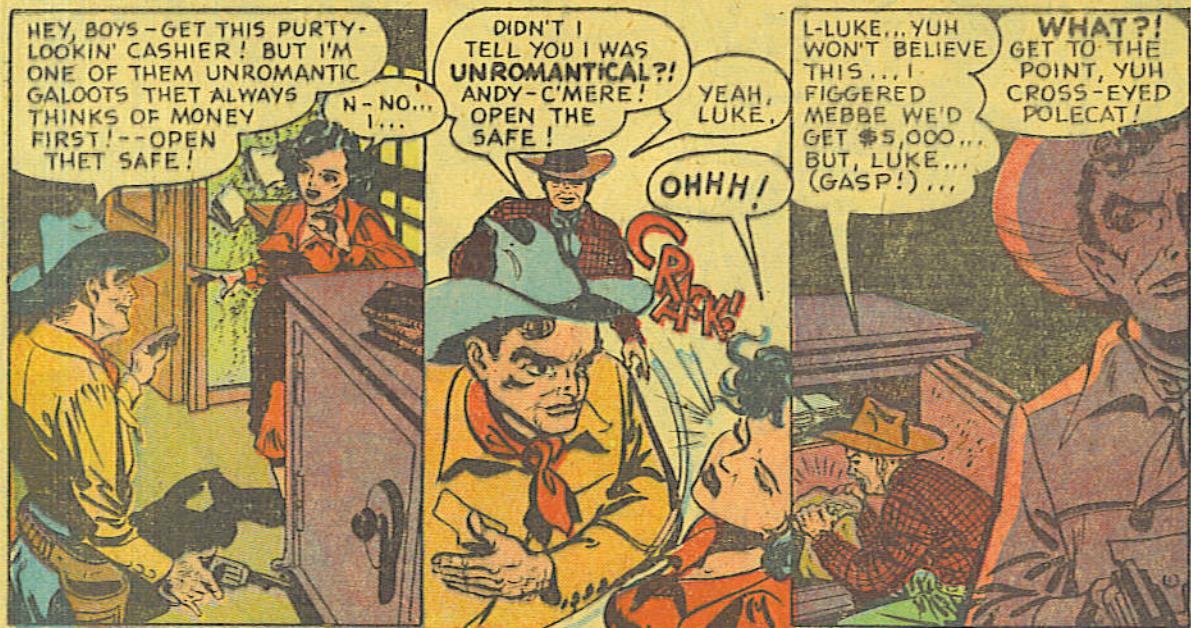
WANTED
DEAD OR ALIVE
LUKE LESTER
ANDY DUGAN
PINTO MALINO
FOR BANK ROBBERY
AND MURDER
\$5,000
REWARD!

NATIONAL
BANK

OKAY, PINTO.
LET'S GO, SHOOT
FIRST, ASK QUESTIONS
SECOND.

WHY NOT?
THEY GOT
ENOUGH
PINNED ONTO
US TO STRETCH
OUR NECKS TEN
TIMES OVER!





LET'S STOP,
LUKE. THE
HOSSES ARE
GETTIN' AWFUL
LATHERED UP.
BESIDES -
I'M GETTIN'
HONGRY.

THE POSSE
MUST BE
'WAY BEHIND.
WE CAN
STOP A
WHILE.

OKAY. HOW
'BOUT HERE?

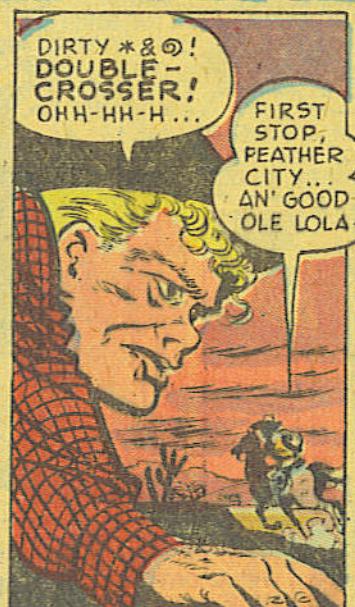
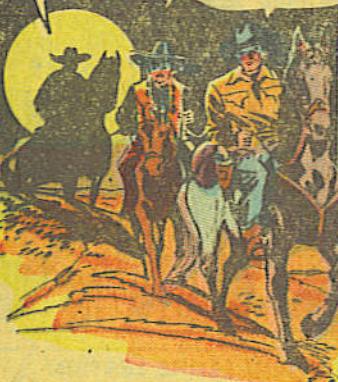
AIN'T
YUH
GETTIN'
OFF, LUKE?

IN A MINUTE.
YUH GUYS GIT
SUPPER GOIN!

THEY GIT IT
THE SECOND
THEY TURN
THEIR BACKS...!

BANG!
BANG!

ARRGH-H!



PINTO AN' ANDY...
THEY WEREN'T SO
LUCKY. THEY CAUGHT
IT FROM THE
POSSE.

YOU'RE
LYIN',
LUKE.
THE PAPERS
SAY ALL THREE
OF YOU
ESCAPED!

THET \$50,000. WAS THE
CHANCE OF A LIFETIME FOR
BOTH OF US, LOLA. I'M SENDIN'
FOR YUH ONCE I MAKE MEXICO.
\$50,000. SPLIT THREE WAYS
AIN'T MUCH - SO I LET PINTO
AN' ANDY
HAVE IT.

I DON'T LIKE THE WAY
YOU'RE KICKIN' UP A FUSS
'BOUT BEAT-UP POLECATS
WHO ALWAYS TOOK THEIR
CUES FROM ME!

(GASP!)
YOU MURDERED
THEM IN COLD
BLOOD?! PINTO,
WHO'D HAVE DIED
FOR YOU...
AND ANDY!

I'M THINKING,
LUKE - WHAT'S
TO STOP A
SMART GUY LIKE
YOU FROM
GETTING RID OF
ME?

NOTHIN', BABY - BUT BE
NICE LIKE THE LOLA I
USTA KNOW AN' YUH
WON'T DIE IN THE
BLOOM OF YOUTH,
GET ME?

GET
YOU? - IM WAY AHEAD
OF YOU, YOU
DIRTY KILLER!

YOU
SPITTIN', SCREECHIN'
SHE-TIGER!
YUH
DOUBLE-
CROSSED
ME!

SHERIFF, HE'S UP HERE! LUKE LESTER!
HE'S... MPPPHHH!

SHERIFF!
LOOK!

THEY'RE COMIN' DOWN THE
BACK STAIRS! BUT LESTER'S
USIN' LOLA LAMAR
FOR A SHIELD!

HE
MURDERED
PINTO AND
ANDY!
SHOOT!
SHOOT!

CAIN'T, MISS,
WE'D HIT YOU.
WE'LL CATCH
LUKE, ALL RIGHT.
HE CAINT GET
FAR... HE'S
GOT TO CROSS
THE DESERT...

SMART BOY!
THE SHERIFF
LIKES TO
PROTECT THE
LADIES, EH?

WELL, PROTECT
HER NOW - HA-HA!
GIDDAP, YA SON
OF SATAN!

OHHH!
BANG!
BANG!

SHE'S DEAD! AIN'T THERE NOTHIN' SACRED TO THET COYOTE?

NOTHIN' BUT HIS GREED FOR GOLD, ROUND UP EVERY GUN-SLINGER IN TOWN! THET TRIGGER-MAD SKUNK WON'T HAVE MUCH CHANCE OF GITTIN' AWAY.

FOUR MISERABLE, AGONIZING HOURS LATER...

AS DAWN BURSTS RED OVER THE EDGE OF THE DESERT...

HEY, THERE, YUH, LUKE? WHAT'IN TARNATION BE YUH DOIN' IN THIS NECK OF THE WOODS?

UNCLE WILLIE! C'MON OUT! WHERE'S EVERYBODY?

STARTIN' TO GIT SANDY ALREADY - I MUST BE GITTIN' CLOSE TO UNCLE WILLIE'S FARM... THE LAST STOP BETWEEN THE DESERT AN' WATER!

CRASH!

I SAID, WHERE'S EVERYBODY?

HEY! - THET WATER'S PRECIOUS HERE. I WORKED TEN YEARS TGIT UP AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM TO CHANGE THIS CUSS'D LAN' INTO A FARM!

THET'S TOO BAD, UNCLE WILLIE. YER ABOUT TO LOSE THEM TEN YEARS. YUH STILL DIDN'T SAY WHERE EVERYBODY IS!

THEY ALL WENT TO THE FAIR AT SHOTGUN. STOP THET HACKIN', LUKE! WITHOUT THET WATER THIS FARM'D DRY UP LIKE A PRUNE. GIVE US THET AXE!

Y'DON'T UNDERSTAND, UNCLE WILLIE, THERE'S A POSSE THAT'L BE COUNTIN' ON GITTIN' WATER TO GIT ACROSS THET DESERT AFTER ME...

SPLASH!

CRASH!

WELL, THEY WON'T GIT A SWALLOW! - I'M A-BUSTIN' EVERY TANK AN' BARREL ON THIS FARM. I'M JUST LEAVIN' ENOUGH IN THE KITCHEN TO FILL UP MY OWN CANTEEN!
N-NO... NO, LUKE... YOU DASSEN'T... (GASP!) ... TEN YEARS I WORKED...

TOO BAD, OLD RAT! TOO BAD! GIT INSIDE AN' FILL THIS CANTEEN WHILE I BUST UP THE REST OF YORE IRRIGATION WHATEVER -YUH-CALL-IT! GIT GOIN'!



NO MAN CAN MAKE MORE'N FIVE MILES ACROSS THE DESERT WITHOUT DYIN' O' THIRST. I ONCE WATCHED A GREASER GO MAD-- HE STARTED SCREAMIN' LIKE A CHICKEN WITHOUT HIS HAID. HEH- HEH- THEN HE SAW RAIN... RAIN THAT WASN'T THERE! I'LL FIX THET POSSE!



I WON'T, THOUGHT I WOULDN'T TEST WHETHER YUH FILLED IT, EH? YORE SMART, UNCLE WILLIE! YUH BETTER NOT TRY TO DOUBLE-CROSS YORE FAVORITE NEPHEW, HEH-HEH!

TELL THET POSSE I'LL BE THINKIN' OF 'EM WHILE I'M GUZZLING TEQUILA AN' DANCIN' RHUMBAS IN MEXICO. ADIOS, SUCKER! TEN YEARS! - HA, HA!

SLUP-SLUP!

DIRTY, DOUBLE-CROSSIN' VARMINT...



THREE HOURS LATER...

NOT A DROP ON THE FARM, SHERIFF, THET SNAKE-IN-THE-GRASS GOT AWAY LIKE HE SAID.

NO, LUKE WON'T GIT AWAY, SHERIFF. HE'LL REMEMBER HIS UNCLE WILLIE - LEASTWAYS, BEFORE HE GOES MAD!



MEANWHILE, ON THE BAKING DESERT...

CAIN'T GO MUCH FURTHER... HORSE DAID... (GASP!)... N-NO REST... I GOTTA TAKE A DRINK... OR I... I'LL DROP! -AHHH! NICE COOL WATER -



A HALF HOUR LATER...

HA-HA-HA! (GASP!) I... I'LL FOOL YUH, UNCLE WILLIE... NO VULTURES WILL GET LUKE LESTER!



I MADE IT RAIN! RAIN! HA-HA-HA-HA! (SOB!)... (SOB!)... SEE ALL THE PRETTY RAIN! GOLDEN RAIN!



-- AND FEASTED, UNMINDFUL OF THE GREAT TREASURE WHICH CAUSED LUKE LESTER'S TRIPLE CROSS



SHARP AND FLAT

"SWING YOUR PARTNER"

IN THE OLD WEST THERE WERE NO RADIOS AND NO JUKE BOXES, BUT THE FOLKS LIKED NOTHING BETTER THAN A GOOD EVENING OF MUSIC AND DANCING AND AROUND HIGH HOLLOW THEY KNEW WHOM TO CALL ON FOR THE MUSIC. IT WAS THOSE TWO WANDERING MUSICIANS, THOSE MUSIC-MAKERS OF THE OLD WEST--SHARP AND FLAT--AND SOMETIMES THEY PROVIDED MORE THAN JUST COUNTRY MUSIC!



ONE DAY, AT A COLONY OF NEW SETTLERS JUST OUTSIDE OF TOWN--

HERE WE ARE,
FLAT. LOOKS MIGHTY QUIET FOR A NEW SETTLEMENT.

SURE DOES, SHARP. WE OUGHTA BE ABLE TO PICK UP A JOB OR TWO HERE. THEY COULD STAND SOME MUSIC. LET'S ASK THET FELLER.



SAY, PARDNER, HOW ABOUT SOME REAL HOE-DOWN MUSIC AROUND HERE?

YEP--WE PLAY A MEAN SQUARE-DANCE, WEBBE YOU HEARD OF US-SHARP AND FLAT.

NOPE, NEVER DID! AND NOBODY WANTS ANY MUSIC 'ROUND HERE! NO SIR!



SEE - WE'RE A-MOVIN'!
WE BOUGHT THIS LAND
BACK EAST FROM THE
AJAX LAND COMPANY
BUT IT'S JINXED!
WE'RE PULLIN' OUT.

BUT THAT'S A TOTAL
LOSS - YOU'LL LOSE ALL
YOU PAID FOR IT.

SUDDENLY --

CARSON -- YOU
HERE?

YEP, I'M
BUYIN' THIS
JINXED LAND
OFF THESE
FOLKS FOR HALF
PRICE...HELPIN'
'EM OUT.

THAT'S RIGHT.
MR. CARSON,
HERE, IS REAL
GENEROUS,
GIVIN' US
HALF WHAT
WE PAID
AJAX FOR
BAD LAND.

WHY DO YOU
SAY THE LAND'S
JINXED?

SON, WHEN CATTLE DIE LIKE
FLIES AND FOLKS TURN SICK,
FER NO GOOD REASON -- THAT
LAND'S JINXED. THAT AJAX
OUTFIT SOLD US BAD
LAND, THAT'S ALL!

I'M GLAD TO DO THIS FOR
YOU GOOD PEOPLE. I'M
BIG-HEARTED THAT WAY.
REMEMBER, YA'LL ALL
BE AT MY FAREWELL
PARTY FOR YA
TONIGHT.

WE'RE MIGHTY GRATEFUL,
MR. CARSON -- GETTIN' HALF
OUR MONEY BACK IS
BETTER'N NOTHIN'!

LET'S GO, FLAT. NO
MUSIC WANTED HERE
WHEN DID THAT BLOW-
HARD, CARSON, GET
SO GENEROUS?

SEARCH ME!
I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D
DO ANYONE A KIND TURN.
ESPECIALLY WITH
MONEY INVOLVED,
BUT HE'S DOIN' IT!

HIM AN' HIS PARTIES!
HE HIRES US FOR NEARLY
NOTHIN' AND MAKES US
PLAY TILL WE DROP.

YOU'RE RIGHT, SHARP,
BUT IT'S BETTER THAN
NO WORK AT ALL!



UH-SHARP,
DON'T GET MAD,
BUT I SAW THIS
BIRD CARSON
BEFORE. I
AGREED WE'D
PLAY AT THE
PARTY HE'S
THROWIN'
TONIGHT.

AW, FLAT--
I TOLDJA NOT
TO TAKE ANY
ANMORE
JOBS FROM
HIM! SHUCKS!
NOW WELL HAVE
TO GO
THROUGH WITH
IT. C'MON--
LET'S GET
BACK!

AND SO, THAT NIGHT --
SWING YOUR PARDNER,
ONE-TWO-THREE --
TURN TO THE
LEFT AN' THERE
SHE'LL BE --

PSSST--
SHARP, HERE
COMES
CARSON
AGAIN!

LOUDER - PLAY
LOUDER, YA HEAR?
WADDAYA THINK
I'M PAYIN' YA FOR?
LOUDER AND
FASTER!

YES, SIR,
WE'LL TRY!





SOON AFTER, BACK
AT CARSON'S PARTY -

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?
WE WANT MUSIC!
YA'LL ONLY GET
HALF-PAY FOR
THIS NIGHT!

IS THAT SO? WELL,
CARSON, WE GOT
SOMETHIN'
FOR YOU!

YEAH?
WHAAAOWW!
THIS!! WE'RE
ALSO WISE TO
YOUR
ARSENIC
POISONING.

CRACK

GRAB THEM--
THEY KNOW
TOO MUCH!

YEAH -- AND
THEY HIT
THE BOSS!

QUICK, FLAT -
BEHIND THE
PIANO. SOME
OF OUR OTHER
INSTRUMENTS
ARE THERE.

HOLD ON
TO HIM
WHILE I
TEACH HIM
A LESSON.

I HOPE YOU LIKE
THE BULL FIDDLE!
IT'S A NICE
INSTRUMENT.
SEE!!!

AND HERE'S A
LITTLE SOMETHING
YOU CAN KEEP!

BOUM

UFH!

THAT'S ENOUGH
OUTA YOU, YOU
LITTLE RUNT!

OOOH-HH,
SHARP -

I'M
COMIN',
FLAT!

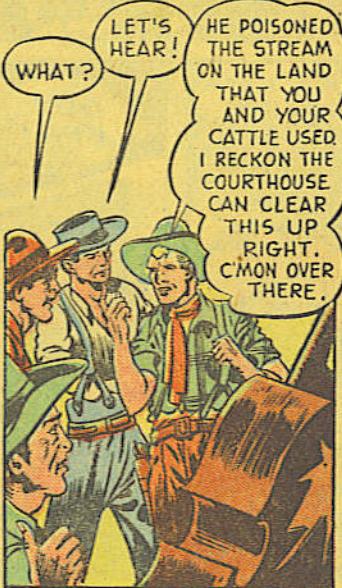
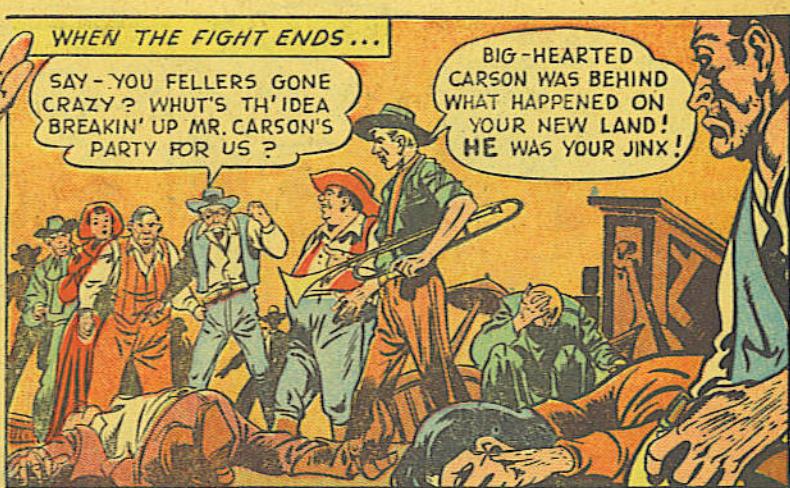
THIS IS A
NEW WAY
TO PLAY
THE SLIDE
TROMBONE!

OWOOO!

WHEN THE FIGHT ENDS...

SAY - YOU FELLERS GONE
CRAZY? WHUT'S TH' IDEA
BREAKIN' UP MR. CARSON'S
PARTY FOR US?

BIG-HEARTED
CARSON WAS BEHIND
WHAT HAPPENED ON
YOUR NEW LAND!
HE WAS YOUR JINX!



HE INTENDED SELLING
TO OTHER SETTLERS,
THEN PULL THE SAME
STUNT. IT EVEN MADE
HIM LOOK BIG-HEARTED
BUT HIS SCHEME IS
DONE FOR.

WE'LL SEE HE GETS
LOCKED UP PRONTO.
AND WE FOLKS OWE
YOU FELLERS A LOT.
HOW 'BOUT FINISHIN'
THAT PARTY
OURSELVES.



AND SOON AFTER--

SWING YOUR PARDNER,
HOLD 'ER TIGHT --
DANCIN' MAKES THE
DAY END RIGHT!

RIGHT--!
H'RAAAY FOR
SHARP'N FLAT
- 'RAAAY !!

YAHOOO--!
THIS IS A
REAL PARTY
THANKS TO
SHARP
AND
FLAT!

